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Responsible Research and Innovation

## Responsible Innovation in Messy Trans-disciplinary Projects

3rd European Technology Assessment conference

19<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Brookfield, UCC, Cork

## Some project based views

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# Some Background

## The PACITA Initiative

- The aim is to strengthen the institutional foundation of European technology assessment and establish and improve their (P)TA
- PACITA is a four year pan-European initiative funded by the EU Commission, commenced in 2008
- Parliamentary Technological Assessment (PTA) are (generally) national entities that provide impartial advice to policy makers on the interplay of science and society.
- PTAs are already established in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, Austria and Flanders and Catalonia).
- Ireland is viewed as a 'laggard' with no PTA

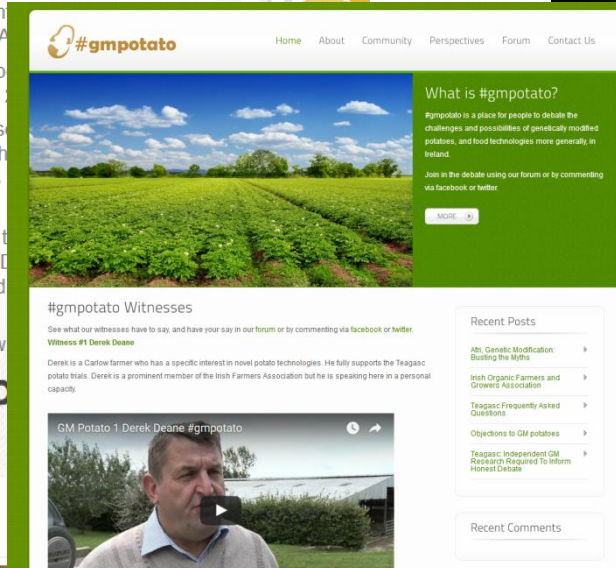
## Irish National Workshop

IRISH NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Connecting Society and Technology



Frédéric Adam and Páidí O'Reilly (University College Cork)



### #gmpotato Witnesses

See what our witnesses have to say, and have your say in our forum or by commenting via facebook or twitter.

#### Witness #1 Derek Deane

Derek is a Carlow farmer who has a specific interest in novel potato technologies. He fully supports the Teagasc potato trials. Derek is a prominent member of the Irish Farmers Association but he is speaking here in a personal capacity.



### Recent Posts

- ATI: Genetic Modification: Building the Myths
- Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association
- Teagasc Frequently Asked Questions
- Objections to GM potatoes
- Teagasc: Independent GM Research Required To Inform Honest Debate

### Recent Comments

was the first Irish national workshop. For the purposes of the event technical and democratic practice which aims to be comprehensive by analysing the social, economic and environmental technology.

An

introduction



## Can PTA Play an increasing role in Ireland?



### Leitrim Observer

News Sport Lifestyle Community

Sunday 24 June 2012

You are here: News

Fracking is "not without risk" - EPA report calls for more research and monitoring

# Why LEANBH is important



- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy affect up to 8% of all gestations and remain major causes of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity worldwide.
  - The most adverse events are attributable to the preeclampsia syndrome, which carries with it significant risks of morbidity and mortality for the mother and fetus.
- 
- Pre-eclampsia causes 70,000 deaths in women and over 500,000 infant deaths worldwide annually.
  - In Ireland and internationally preeclampsia complicates 2-3% of all pregnancies (5-7% in nulliparous women).
  - Pre-eclampsia can be asymptomatic until the later stages, with serious consequences if it goes unrecognised.
  - A UK report estimated that 46% of maternal deaths and 65% of fetal deaths due to preeclampsia occurred due to **a failure to identify and act on known risk factors during pregnancy.**

# Innovation and Wicked Problems?



Figure 2 (How to recognize a wicked problem (based upon Rittel and Weber, 1973, 1984))

# Including, anticipating and adapting ...?



**Using voices to design near futures ...**



# What is RRI ...?



EC *now*:

RRI is an inclusive approach to research and innovation (R&I), to ensure that societal actors work together ensuring the whole research and innovation process. It aims to better align both the process and outcomes of R&I with the values, needs and expectations of European society.

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/en/h2020-section/science-and-society>

**RRI is not an Approach but a Mindset ...**



Faculty of  
Earth and  
Life Sciences



Few throwaways



# RRI Means ...?



**RRI Tools** | **RRI means...**

Be sensitive to research biases, seek originality, include diverse perspectives and make results beneficial to a wider community  
**Diversity & Inclusion**

Think on the purposes and possible implications of research and its results, and consider alternative methods  
**Anticipation & reflection**

Share objectives, methods and results, be realistic about limits and mistakes, and inform about conflicts  
**Openness & transparency**

Be flexible to change and external inputs, adapting your research plans to changing circumstances and expectations  
**Responsiveness & Adaptive change**

**We call these the RRI process dimensions!**

**It is about being 'Sufficiently Responsible' ...**



Few throwaways

# Obstacles to RRI ...?



# Some opinions ...?



What is it that RRI is hoping to achieve?

Learning outcomes	R&I outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Engaged Publics</li><li>Responsible actors</li><li>Responsible institutions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Essentially</li><li>Socially desirable innovations</li></ul>	<p>Contribute to solving societal challenges</p> <p>e.g. 7 Grand Challenges (EU)</p>

**RRI protects against some downside but doesn't guarantee the upside....**



Few throwaways



Source: <http://funnyshit.com.au/img/not-my-job-redux.jpg>

**The question then becomes 'how  
can we be 'Sufficiently  
Responsible'?**

# Many Thanks

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